

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ACDA-05 AGR-05 AID-05 CEA-01 CEQ-01

CG-00 CIAE-00 CIEP-01 OFA-01 COME-00 DLOS-04 DODE-00

DOT-00 EB-07 EPA-01 ERDA-05 FEAE-00 FMC-01 TRSE-00

H-02 INR-07 INT-05 IO-11 JUSE-00 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05

NSF-01 OES-03 OMB-01 PA-01 PM-04 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 SAL-01 ARAE-00 /116 W
----- 105830

P R 301358Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY QUITO

TO AMEMBASSY MEXICO PRIORITY

SECSTATE WASHDC 8858

INFO AMCONSUL GUAYAQUIL

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE QUITO 0861

MEXICO FOR AMBASSADOR MOORE & MS RIDGWAY

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, PLOS, EFIS, EC

SUBJECT: GOE REPLY TO PROTEST NOTE ON INVESTIGATION OF LOSS OF
THE NEPTUNE

REF: STATE 305126, QUITO 0175

1. FOLLOWING IS INFORMAL TRANSLATION OF GOE NOTE #8/76 REPLYING
TO OUR NOTE OF JANUARY 7 ON THE NEPTUNE:

2. "THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN RELATIONS PRESENTS ITS COMPLIMENTS
TO THE HONORABLE EMBASSY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA AND,
IN CONNECTION WITH NOTE NUMBER 01, DATED JANUARY 7, 1976, IN
REFERENCE TO DAMAGES SUSTAINED BY THE U.S. FLAG VESSEL NEPTUNE
AND ITS SUBSEQUENT SINKING IN ECUADOREAN TERRITORIAL WATERS,
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HAS THE HONOR TO STATE AS FOLLOWS:

THE GOVERNMENT OF ECUADOR IS PLEASED TO LEARN THAT THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA HAS NOTED THAT THE PROCEEDINGS INSTITUTED FOR INVESTIGATING THE CAUSES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE SINKING OF THE ABOVE-NAMED US VESSEL WERE EXPEDITIOUSLY PROCESSED BY THE ECUADOREAN JURISDICTIONAL AUTHORITIES AND THAT THE MEMBERS OF THE SHIP-WRECKED VESSEL ENJOYED FULL FREEDOM WHILE THE REQUIRED INVESTIGATIONS WERE MADE.

WITHOUT ANY DESIRE FOR CONTROVERSY, THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF ECUADOR DEFINITELY STATES THAT THE SINKING OF THE NEPTUNE TOOK PLACE IN ITS TERRITORIAL WATERS AND THEREFORE REJECTS THE STATEMENT THAT SUCH EVENT TOOK PLACE IN AN AREA OR ZONE REFERRED TO AS THE HIGH SEAS.

THE GOVERNMENT OF ECUADOR WISHES TO POINT OUT TO THE U.S. GOVERNMENT THAT IT WILL ZEALOUSLY CONTINUE TO MAINTAIN THOSE MEASURES AIMED AT PREVENTING ANY VIOLATION OF ITS TERRITORIAL WATERS AND THOSE LAWS GOVERNING THE ACTIVITIES OF VESSELS OF ALL FLAGS IN THESE WATERS.

AS FOR THE REST, THE U.S. CONSUL GENERAL IN GUAYAQUIL THANKED THE PROPER ECUADOREAN AUTHORITIES FOR THE TIMELY ACTION TAKEN BY MEMBERS OF THE NATIONAL NAVY, WHO RENDERED THE NECESSARY ASSISTANCE TO THE CREW MEMBERS OF THE NEPTUNE.

THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN RELATIONS AVAILS ITSELF OF THIS OPPORTUNITY TO RENEW TO THE HONORABLE EMBASSY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA THE ASSURANCES OF ITS HIGHEST AND MOST DISTINGUISHED CONSIDERATION. QUITO, JANUARY 12, 1976"

3. COMMENT: NOW THAT WE BOTH HAVE RESTATED OUR WELL-KNOWN AND OFT-DECLARED JURIDICAL POSITIONS, THUS PRESUMABLY ASSUAGING OUR RESPECTIVE AMOURS PROPRES, I SUGGEST WE GET ON WITH OUR CURRENTLY ENCOURAGING EFFORTS TO RESOLVE THIS LONG-STANDING DISPUTE.
BREWSTER

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